

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 9-12, 18, 20, 34 and 37 are amended. Claim 8 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 41 and 42 are new.

2. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 8. Thus, as noted by the Examiner, claim 1 should now be allowable. Claims 2-17 depend from claim 1 and should also be allowable.

3. Claim 18 has been amended to include subject matter similar to that in amended claim 1, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable with respect to amended claim 1. Thus claim 18 should be allowable. Claims 19-40 depend from claim 18 and should be allowable at least in view of the respective dependencies.

4. Claims 9-12 are amended to correct the dependency due to the cancellation of claim 8. Claims 34 and 37 are amended to correct typographical errors. These changes are not limiting and are not made for reasons related to patentability.

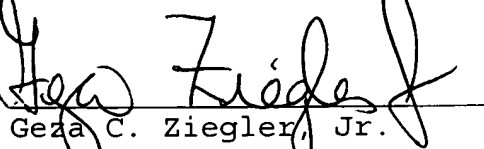
5. Claim 41 represents the combination of claims 18, 19 and 20. Claim 42 represents the combination of claims 18, 38 and 40. The Examiner has indicated that these combinations would be allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should

any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check for \$86 is enclosed for the additional claim fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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6 July 2004
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Signature: Laura Perregrino
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